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SUBJECT: FINLAND: (UN) ACTION REQUEST: 64TH UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY THIRD COMMITTEE

¶1. Pol/Econoff delivered reftel points to Kirsti Pohjankukka and Janne Jokinen, First Secretaries in the Unit for Humans Rights Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Pohjankukka thanked the USG for its help with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, adding that the support was very much appreciated coming from a country not bound by the convention as a ratifier.

¶2. Regarding the use of no-action motions, Pohjankukka stated that the GOF is against the use of these motions and will actively support the USG on this topic.

¶3. Regarding the Defamation of Religion Resolution, Pohjankukka supports the E.U.'s position that religion is not an institution and thus this resolution is faulty. E.U. usually proposes a resolution on religious tolerance and it is important to keep the E.U. resolution separate from the Defamation resolution. Pohjankukka suggested that if the resolution does get tabled that the best way to mount a successful campaign against it would be to reach out to wider regional groups. She asserted that it will be important to have as many diverse voices as possible against the resolution.

¶4. Regarding Rights of the Child Convention, Pohjankukka stated that there is not much room to amend the proposed text about the resolution being the standard for this issue. Jokinen added that the text cannot be changed because the Convention is so widely ratified that it has become the pinnacle of the ideal of universal ratification.⁸ Jokinen is sure that the sentence about this convention being the standard on the rights of children will stay in the text. Both GOF officials gave positive statements at the thought of USA ratifying this resolution. Jokinen stated that some countries are proposing language to weaken this resolution. He was adamant that the text cannot be changed or the U.N. standard will be viewed as weakening.

¶5. Both Pohjankukka and Jokinen had questions regarding the Third Committee. Post requests guidance on how to respond to the following questions:

--What is the U.S. strategy on the stereotyping resolution?

--Has the U.S. discussed the possibility of country-specific resolutions in the future?

--What are the responses from the Latin American countries regarding country-specific resolutions? GOF wants to steer the conversation so that country-specific resolutions become a trend to help basic attitudes change.

--What is the USG's thinking regarding the review of the HRC in Geneva? Pohjankukka and Jokinen both followed up this question by stating that the HRC is living in its own little bubble and that it needs to be more grounded in reality.

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